

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified patent application be reexamined and reconsidered. This amendment, which is filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), is prepared in response to the Advisory Action mailed September 11, 2003. Applicant submits that the above-described claim amendments were made to accommodate suggestions made by the Examiner. Applicant hereby states that these amendments are made to accommodate the Examiner's suggestions and NOT for reasons of patentability over the cited art.

Record of the Telephone Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Akers for the interview of October 8, 2003. During the interview, Examiner Akers and the undersigned discussed the present invention and the cited references. Examiner Akers indicated that the claims do not present issues under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103 in view of the cited art. Examiner Akers, however, did have several suggestions to amend the claims to more distinctly point out and define the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention. Under Examiner Akers' instruction, applicant makes the above amendments to expedite the prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims, as they stand prior to the entry of this amendment, in a continuation application.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application and allowance of the claims are solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

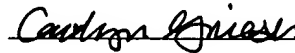
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: October 10, 2003



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